

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:HGILMORE:MD

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, YO

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST YUGOSLAV CONSULATE
GENERAL AND UN MISSION

1. IN CALL ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE
NOVEMBER 8, YUGOSLAV CHARGE PETKOVIC SAID HE HAD BEEN
INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH MANNER IN WHICH
NYC POLICE HANDLED NOVEMBER 2 DEMONSTRATIONS AT YUGOSLAV
CONSULATE GENERAL AND UN MISSION. CLAIMING THAT POLICE
ARRIVED AT SCENE OF BOTH DEMONSTRATIONS ONE HALF HOUR
LATE, PETKOVIC STATED THAT ANYONE COULD CONCLUDE THAT
SUCH BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THE POLICE ENCOURAGES DEMON-
STRATORS TO FEEL THEY CAN DO AS THEY PLEASE.

2. ARMITAGE INTERRUPTED PETKOVIC TO REJECT FLATLY THE
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STATEMENT THAT THE NYC POLICE "ENCOURAGED" THE DEMONSTRA-

TORS.

3. PETKOVIC THEN INDICATED THAT YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS IN U.S. DO NOT RPT NOT FEEL THEY ARE PROPERLY PROTECTED BY THE POLICE. THE "NEXT STEP", HE ASSERTED, WILL BE FOR A DEMONSTRATOR TO KILL SOMEONE FROM A YUGOSLAV MISSION AS HAS HAPPENED HERE "MANY TIMES" IN THE PAST. ARMITAGE

TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO THIS STATEMENT, NOTING THAT TO THE DEPARTMENT'S KNOWLEDGE NO RPT NO YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL IN THE U.S. HAS EVER BEEN KILLED, AND ASKING PETKOVIC TO DOCUMENT THIS ASSERTION. PETKOVIC DID NOT RPT NOT RESPOND.

4. ARMITAGE STRESSED THAT U.S.G. ACCEPTS AND DOES ITS BEST TO FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV ESTABLISHMENTS AND REGRETS THAT WINDOW IN YUGOSLAV UN MISSION WAS BROKEN. HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS NO RPT NO YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL WAS HARMED OR THREATENED. PETKOVIC CONFIRMED THIS POINT.

5. ARMITAGE NOTED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAVE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN NEW YORK, E.G. THE YUGOSLAVS SAY THE DEMONSTRATORS ENTERED THE FOYER OF THE BUILDING IN WHICH THEIR CONSULATE GENERAL IS LOCATED WHILE THE NY POLICE MAINTAIN THEY DID NOT. HE INFORMED PETKOVIC THAT DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED A FULL REPORT FROM THE NY POLICE.

6. PETKOVIC ALSO REFERRED TO INCIDENT ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING BOMBING NIGHT OF OCTOBER 22-23 OF A SHOP IN CLEVELAND CALLED "TRIGLAV". SHOP REPORTEDLY SELLS NEWSPAPERS, RECORDS, ETC. FROM YUGOSLAVIA. PETKOVIC ASSERTED THAT SHOP HAD BEEN DAMAGED SERIOUSLY AND EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH BEHAVIOR OF CLEVELAND POLICE. ARMITAGE ASKED WHETHER ANY YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL HAD BEEN HARMED OR THREATENED BY THIS EXPLOSION. WHEN PETKOVIC REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, ARMITAGE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS TYPE OF INCIDENT WAS PROPERLY A MATTER BETWEEN U.S. AUTHORITIES AND OWNER OF THE SHOP. MAW
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